

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An improved competitive game ball comprising:
a core comprising a central core and no more than two mantle layers, wherein the central core has a first hardness and a coefficient of restitution of greater than about 0.45 to about ~~between about 0.40 to~~ 0.50 at 88 feet/second;
a first mantle layer surrounding said central core, said first mantle layer having a second hardness that is less than said first hardness; and
a cover surrounding said first mantle layer.
2. (Original) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said central core comprises a first urethane composition.
3. (Currently Amended) The improved game ball as described in claim 2, wherein said first urethane composition includes a first mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate, wherein the mix ratio of polyol to isocyanate is from about 100/80 parts by weight to greater than ~~about~~ 100/40 parts by weight.
4. (Original) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said first mantle layer comprises a second urethane composition.
5. (Previously Presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 4, wherein said second urethane composition includes a second mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate.

6. (Previously Presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 1 further comprising:

a second mantle layer positioned between said first mantle layer and said cover, said second mantle layer having a third hardness that is harder than said second hardness of said first mantle layer.

7. (Previously Presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 6, wherein said second mantle layer comprises a third urethane composition.

8. (Original) The improved game ball as described in claim 7, wherein said third urethane composition includes a first mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate.

9. (Original) The improved game ball as described in claim 5 wherein said central core comprises a diameter substantially between 3.40 inches and 3.44 inches.

10. (Original) The improved game ball as described in claim 5 wherein said first mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.500 inches.

11. (Previously Presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 6 wherein said second mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.25 inches.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein the compression of said game ball is between about 325 ~~[[175]]~~ and 475 pounds.

14. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer competitive game ball comprising:
a composite core including a central core having a first urethane composition with a coefficient of restitution of greater than about 0.45 and less than about ~~between about 0.40 and 0.50~~ at 88 feet per second and a first mantle layer having a second urethane composition, wherein said second urethane composition of said first mantle layer is softer than said first urethane composition of said center core; and
a cover surrounding said composite core.
15. (Previously Presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 14 further comprising:
a second mantle layer surrounding said composite core, said second mantle layer positioned between said composite core and said cover, wherein said second mantle layer is harder than said first mantle layer.
16. (Previously Presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 15, wherein said second mantle layer comprises a third urethane composition.
17. (Previously Presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 14 wherein said central core comprises a diameter substantially between 3.40 inches and 3.44 inches.
18. (Previously Presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 14 wherein said first mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.500 inches.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 14, wherein the compression of said game ball is between about 325 ~~[[175]]~~ to 475 pounds.
21. (Previously Presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 3, wherein the mix ratio of polyol to isocyanate produces a compression of said central core between about 350 lbs. and about 550 lbs.

22. (Previously Presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said central core has a weight of between approximately 100 grams and approximately 115 grams, and said first mantle layer has a weight of approximately 50 grams.

23. (New) A softball comprising:

a composite core comprising (1) a central core having a first hardness, and (2) a first outer core layer adjacent the central core, the first outer core layer having a second hardness less than the first hardness; and

a cover surrounding the composite core,

the softball having a compression of about 400 lbs. or less and a coefficient of restitution of from about 0.400 to about 0.500 at 88 feet/second.

24. (New) The softball according to claim 23, wherein the central core comprises a first urethane composition.

25. (New) The softball according to claim 23, wherein the first outer core comprises a second urethane composition.

26. (New) The softball according to claim 23, wherein the composite core further comprises a second outer core layer adjacent the first outer core layer, the second outer core having a third hardness.

27. (New) The softball according to claim 26, wherein the third hardness is greater than the second hardness.

28. (New) The softball according to claim 26, wherein the third hardness is less than the second hardness.

29. (New) The softball according to claim 23, wherein the softball has a compression of about 375 lbs. or less.

30. (New) The softball according to claim 23, wherein the softball has a compression of about 325 lbs. or less.
31. (New) The softball according to claim 23, wherein the softball has a compression of about 200 lbs. or less.
32. (New) The softball according to claim 23, wherein the central core comprises a first urethane composition, and the first outer core layer comprises a second urethane composition.
33. (New) The softball according to claim 32, further comprising a second outer core layer adjacent the first outer core layer, the second outer core layer comprising a third urethane composition and having a third hardness.
34. (New) The softball according to claim 33, wherein the third hardness is greater than the second hardness.
35. (New) The softball according to claim 33, wherein the third hardness is less than the second hardness.